

By the Mayor.

An Act of Common Councell, prohibiting
all Strangers borne, and Forrainers, to vse any trades, or
keepe any maner of shops in any sort within this Citty, Liberties and Freedome
thereof.

At a common Councell holden at the Guild-hall of this Citty, on the xv. day of
April, In the fourth yeare of the Raign of our Soueraigne Lord I A M E S, by the
grace of God, King of England, France and Ireland, defender of the Faith, &c. and in
the xxxix. yeare of his Raign of Scotland. It is ordained, & established as followeth.



Here by the aunient Charters, Customes, Franchises, and Li-
berties of the Citty of London, confirmed by sundrie Actes of
Parliament, no person not being free of the said Citty, may or
ought to sell, or put to sale any wares or marchandises within
the said Citty or the Liberties of the same by retaille, or keepe a-
ny open or inward shop, or other inward place or room for shew
sale, or putting to sale, of any wares or marchandises, or for vse
of any Arte, Trade, Occupation, mysterie or handicraft with-
in the same. And whereas also Edward sometime King of England of famous memorie,
the thirde of that name, by his Charter made and granted to the saide Citty in the fifteenth
yeare of his Raigne, confirmed also by Parliament amongst other things granted, that if
any Customes in the said Citty before that time obtayned and vled, were in any part hard
or defectiue, or any things in the same newlie arising, where remedie before that time was
not ordained, should need amendment, the Mayor and Aldermen of the said Citty and their
Successors, with the assent of the Communalty of the same Citty, might put and ordaine
therunto fit remedie, as often as it should seeme expedient vnto them. So that such or-
dinance should be profitable to the King for the profite of Cittizens and other his people re-
pairing to the said Citty, and agreeable to reason. And wheras by force of the said Customs,
Franchises, and Liberties, and of the Charter last afore mentioned, confirmed as is afore
specified by Parliament, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the said Citty, did
the twelfth day of October in the thirde year of the raign of Edward sometime King of Eng-
land the fourth, as a thing thought fit and conuenient for that time, (amongst other things)
agree and ordaine, that the Basketmakers, Goldwyerdawers, and other forraines, con-
trarie to the libertie of the said Citty, holding open shoppes, in diuers places of the Citty,
and vsing mysteries within the said Citty, should not from thenceforth hold shoppes within
the libertie of the Citty aforesaide. But if they would hold any shoppe, or dwell in the
same Citty, they should dwell at Blanchapleton, and there holde shoppes, so as they
might haue sufficient dwelling there. And where also the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and
Commons of the said Citty, did afterwarde the sixteenth day of May, in the seuenteenth

yeare of the Raigne of our late Soueraign Lord of famous memory King Henry the eight, as a course thought fit and agreeable for that time, ordeine, establish, and enact, that no manner of person or persons being estrange from the Liberties of the saide Cittie, from thenceforth should holde or keepe any open shoppe or shoppes within the saide Cittie or liberties of the same, neither with any Lattesses before, nor yet without Lattesse, certain numbers of the poore men occuppyng the seate of Botchers, Taylozs and Coblers, onelie except, vpon paine of imprisonment, and also to forfeite and to pay xl. s. to the vse of the Communalitie of this Cittie, as oftentimes as he or they should doe the contrarie. And where also the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the same Cittie, did afterward the xx. day of January, in the said xviij. yeare of King Henry the eight, (reciting that where at a common Councell holden the xvij. day of May, in the seauenteenth yeare of the raigne of King Henry the eight. It was ordeined and enacted, that no manner of person or persons being estrange from the Liberties of this Cittie, from thenceforth should holde or keepe any open shoppe or shoppes within this Cittie or Liberties of the same, neither with any Lattesses before, nor yet without any Lattesse vpon paine of imprisonment) Further, ordeine, and establish, that if any person or persons being foraine, should holde and keepe open any shoppe or shoppes as is aforesaid, he should forfeite for euery time so doing xl. s. to be leuied by distresse, to the vse of the Communalitie of the saide Cittie, by the Chamberlaine for the time being, or other Officer of this Cittie, and also haue imprisonment by the discretion of the Mayor and Aldermen for the time being.

Now forasmuch as diuers and sundry strangers borne, and likewise Forreiners from the liberties of the saide Cittie, nothing regarding the said aunient Charters, Franchises, Customs, or liberties of the saide Cittie, and actes and ordinances heretofore made according to the same, but wholie intending their priuate profit, haue of late yeares deuised and practized by all sinister and subtil meanes, how to defraud and defeat the said Charters, Liberties, Customs, good orders, and ordinances, and to that end, do now inwardlie in priue and secret places, vsually and ordinarily, shew, sel, & put to sale, their wares, & Marchandizes, and vse Arts, Trades, Occupations, Misteries, and handicraftes within the said Cittie and Liberties of the same, to the great detriment and hurt of the Freemen of the said Cittie, who pay Lot and Scot, beare Offices, and vndergoe other Charges which Strangers and others not free are not chargeable withall nor will performe. For reformation of which disorders, and for auoiding of such prejudice and damage, as thereby groweth to the Freemen of the said Cittie, and is more now of late vled then was in any time heretofore suffered, and to prouide for the common profite and good of the Freemen and Cittizens of this Cittie. It is therefore by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen and Commons in this common Councell assembled, ordeined and established: That no person whatsoever not being free of the Cittie of London, shal at any time after the feast of Saint Michael now next ensuing, by any colour, way or meane whatsoever, either directly or indirectly by himselfe, or by any other, shew, sel or put to sale any wares, or marchandises whatsoever by retaille within the Cittie of London, or the Liberties or Suburbes of the same, vpon paine to

forfeitt to the Chamberlaine of the Cittie, for the time being, to the vse of the Maier and Communitie & Citizens of the said Cittie the summe of five poundes of lawfull money of England, for every time, wherein such person shall shew, sell or put to sale any wares or marchandises by retaille, within the said Cittie, Liberties or Suburbes thereof, contrarie to the true intent and meaning hereof. And it is further ordained and established, That no person whatsoeuer, not being free of this Cittie, shall at any time after the said Feast of Saint Michael, by any colour, way or meane whatsoeuer, directly or indirectly, by himselfe, or by any other, keepe any shoppe, or other place whatsoeuer, inward or outward, for shew sale, or putting to sale of any wares, or marchandises whatsoeuer, by way of retaille, or vse any Arte, Trade, Occupation, Mystery or Handicraft whatsoeuer within the saide Cittie, or the Liberties or Suburbes of the same, vpon paine to forfeite the summe of five poundes of lawfull money of England for every time, wherein such person shall keepe any shoppe or other place whatsoeuer, inward or outward, for shew, sale, or putting to sale of any wares or marchandises whatsoeuer, by way of retaille, or vse any Art, Trade, Occupation, Mystery or Handicraft whatsoeuer, within the said Cittie or Liberties or Suburbes of the same contrary to the true entent and meaning hereof. All which paines, penalties, forfeitures and summes of money to bee forfeited by vertue of this Act, or ordinance, shall be recovered by action of debt, bill or plaint to be comensed and prosecuted in the name of the Chamberlaine of the Cittie of London for the time being, in the Kings Maiesties Court, to be holden in the Chamber of the Guild-hall of this Cittie, before the Lord Maier and Aldermen of the same Cittie, wherein no essoine or wager of law shall be admitted or allowed for the Defendant. And that the Chamberlaine of the said Cittie for the time being, shall in all suites to be prosecuted by vertue of this Act or Ordinance against any Offender, recover the ordinarie Costs of sute to be expended in and about the prosecution thereof. And further that one equall third part of all forfeitures to be recovered by vertue hereof (the costes of sute for recovery of the same, being deducted and allowed) shall be after the recovery and receipt thereof payde and deliuered to the Treasurer of Christs Hospitall, to be employed towarde the reliefe of the poore children to be brought vp and maintained in the said Hospitall, and one other equall third part to him, or them which shall first giue information of the offences, for which such forfeitures shall growe and prosecute sute in the name of the Chamberlaine of the saide Cittie for the recovery of the same, any thing in this Act to the Contrary notwithstanding. Provided alwayes, that this Act or ordinance, or any thing therein contained, shall not extend to any person or persons, for bringing, or causing to be brought any victuals to be solde within this Cittie and the Liberties thereof, but that they and every of them may sell victuals within the said Cittie, and the Liberties thereof, as they lawfully might haue done before the making hereof, any thing herein to the contrarie thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

God saue the King.

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